

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

ACDA-19 MBFR-03 OMB-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 EB-11 /143 W

----- 074406

R 281719Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7085

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, FR, UK, UR, US, GW, GE, WB

SUBJECT: FRENCH MILITARY FLIGHT THROUGH CORRIDORS TO
EAST BERLIN

REF: (A) BERLIN 1465; (B) STATE 167937

SUMMARY. FRENCH HERE HAVE CONFIRMED USBER REPORT (REF
A) THAT PROPOSED FRENCH MILITARY FLIGHT CARRYING
EDGAR FAURE THROUGH CORRIDORS TO SCHOENEFELD HAS BEEN
INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. SINCE THE ISSUE MAY REAPPEAR,
HOWEVER, EMBASSY ADDS ITS GENERAL COMMENTS TO USBER'S.
END SUMMARY.

1. FRENCH BONN GROUP REP (PAYE) TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 28
THAT PROPOSED FRENCH MILITARY FLIGHT TO EAST BERLIN
THROUGH CORRIDORS WAS POSTPONED "INDEFINITELY," ALTHOUGH
PAYE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW REASON. ONE POSSIBILITY MAY
BE THAT BRITISH, AS WE LEARNED AUGUST 24, HAD REACTED
QUITE NEGATIVELY TO FRENCH DEMARCHE IN LONDON. UK REP
TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT BRITISH HAVE ALWAYS SEEN THE
FRENCH PROPOSAL AS A NON-STARTER (SEE BONN 11551) AND
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WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO OPPOSE IT.

2. WE ARE BY NO MEANS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE HAS BEEN FINALLY LAID TO REST, AND WOULD THEREFORE ADD OUR COMMENTS TO USBER'S EXCELLENT SUMMATION (REF A). AS THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY INDICATED (BONN 12004 AND PREVIOUS), WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSED FLIGHT OF FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT EDGAR FAURE IN A FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT THROUGH THE CORRIDORS TO SCHOENEFELD WOULD NOT BE PROPITIOUS NOW, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT BERLIN AIR SITUATION: ALLIES AND FRG HAVE BEGUN CONSIDERATION OF APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON PROCEDURE FOR LUFTHANSA ENTRY INTO BERLIN CONTROL ZONE, AND INNER-GERMAN AIR TALKS WILL PROBABLY BEGIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WITHIN SUCH A FRAMEWORK OF CHANGE, WE BELIEVE THERE IS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY SOVIETS WOULD USE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY OF FAURE'S FLIGHT TO INCREASE PRESSURE FOR GENERAL BERLIN AVIATION DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH WE WOULD NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED.

3. WE AGREE USBER'S AND DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF FAURE FLIGHT HAVE MERIT. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT WERE THE FRENCH FLIGHT TO TAKE PLACE AS PROPOSED REF B, ACCEPTANCE OF GDR CONTROL WITHIN THE BCZ WOULD CLEARLY BE INVOLVED. SUCH ACCEPTANCE OF GDR CONTROL WOULD REPRESENT A UNILATERAL CHANGE IN LONG-EXISTING PROCEDURES WITHOUT APPARENT GAIN FOR EITHER ALLIED OR FRG POSITION VIS-A-VIS SOVIETS AND GDR. WE FULLY SUPPORT CONCLUSIONS PARA 4, REF A.

4. WE ARE ALSO INCLINED TO SHARE DEPARTMENT'S AND USBER'S CONCERN REGARDING FRENCH ACTIONS IN THE EVENT THAT UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS OR SOVIET OR GDR ACTIONS FORCED THE FRENCH TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL GDR CONTROLS IN MID-FLIGHT. AS USBER HAS POINTED OUT, SOVIETS COULD WELL CLAIM SUBSEQUENTLY THAT GDR HAD GREATER ROLE IN BERLIN AIR SITUATION AS A RESULT OF THE FRENCH MILITARY FLIGHT LANDING AT SCHOENEFELD.
HILLENBRAND

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